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Contribution by district boards for Local Development Works.

* 2235 *Q.*—SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state why the District Boards in the State have been prevented from contributing one-fourth of the cost of Local Development Works from District Board Funds?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" The district boards in this State have not been prevented from contributing one-fourth of the cost of Local Development Works. District Boards which have deficits in their General or Elementary Education Account and which require ex-gratia grant from State funds towards such deficits caused by the payment of dearness allowance to their staff have, however, been required to obtain the previous sanction of the Government for the payment of the contribution, pointing out the source from which the expenditure on the payment of contribution will be met."

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIAR :—" Sir, almost all the district boards in the State are having deficit budgets. At least 11 of them are having deficit budgets. Still, it is possible for some of them to adjust their budget and provide for contribution to necessary and urgent work. That being the case, why should the Government stand in the way? "

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" Sir, we are not standing in the way. It is only with reference to the district boards which depend upon the Government for funds in certain cases, we want that they must obtain our permission. That is all."

Reward given to some persons in Palni taluk.

* 2236 *Q.*—SRI V. MADANAGOPAL : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any reward was given on 8th October 1953 by the District Collector to some persons in the village of Vellore near Chatrapatti, Palni taluk, who were involved in causing damages to the properties of other villagers; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) I must say, Sir, that the suggestion in the hon. Member's question is not only incorrect but also mischievous in its purport. I need hardly deny that Government made any rewards to persons who broke other people's properties anywhere."

Improvement of labour conditions in plantations.

* 2237 *Q.*—SRI S. R. ARUMUGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Lady Welfare Officer, Coonoor, has submitted proposals to improve the conditions of labour in plantations; and

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(*b*) if so, what the proposals are and how many of them have been implemented by the management?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) No, Sir.
" (*b*) Does not arise."

Free distribution of milk powder, etc., in the slum areas in the city.

* 2238 *Q.*—SRI M. PALANIYANDI (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal for the free distribution of (*a*) milk powder and (*b*) contraceptive devices in the slum areas of the Madras City?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" UNICEF gift skim milk powder is being distributed to malnourished children and expectant and nursing mothers in the city including slum areas attending the Corporation maternity and child welfare centres.

There is no proposal for the free distribution of contraceptive devices in the slum areas of Madras City. In the Family Planning Clinics run by the Madras Corporation, contraceptives costing Rs. 4–8–0 per set are supplied at a subsidized rate of annas eight per set."

Harijans promoted as Deputy Tahsildars.

* 2239 *Q.*—SRI R. S. ARUMUGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the number of Harijan candidates promoted as Deputy Tahsildars from 1950 onwards?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" One in South Kanara in 1951, one in Madurai in 1953 and one in North Arcot in 1954."

SRI V. S. SIVAPRAKASAM :—" In view of the fact that the number of Harijans holding these posts of Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars in the Revenue Subordinate Service is very negligible taking this State as a whole and also in view of the fact that there is no possibility of recruiting Harijans to these Subordinate Services by departmental promotion in the near future, will the Government consider the necessity and desirability of appointing Harijans to these Revenue Subordinate Services by direct recruitment since there are several suitable Harijan graduates and double graduates who are unemployed? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" Sir, I will come to direct recruitment later. As regards the other question, there are only four qualified men, out of which three have been selected. About the fourth, probably on a question of merit or ability, he has not been selected. Anyway, I have no information on that. As for direct recruitment, for certain categories, direct recruitments are being made. Since there is provision for promotion, I do not think there is necessity for direct recruitment."